

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements, whereby a first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece, ~~the body of the connecting piece being comprising a body~~ mainly of plastic, ~~and a metal insert provided with a thread being arranged~~ at at least one end of the connecting piece a metal insert provided with a thread, whereby at least one element is connectable to the connecting piece with threaded connection and ~~there is~~ at least one gripping element on the outer surface of the connecting piece for rotating the connecting piece or keeping it still upon making the threaded connection, ~~characterized in that the gripping element comprises at least two straight portions such that two straight portions on opposite sides of the connecting piece are parallel, the straight portions forming gripping surfaces for a tool, and that there is a rounded portion which is arranged smooth between adjacent straight portions, whereby the gripping element is formed such that the tool round the gripping element slips before the thread and/or the basic structure of the connecting piece gets damaged.~~

2. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gripping element comprises six straight portions.

3. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.

4. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outer surface of the metal insert is provided with ribs in the direction of the periphery, the ribs of the metal insert and the ribs on the outer surface of the connecting piece being arranged at the same point.

5. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 1, wherein the portion which is arranged smooth is a rounded portion intended for connecting at least two elements, whereby a first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece, the body of the connecting piece being mainly of thermoplast and a thread being formed at at least one end of the connecting piece, whereby at least one element is connectable to the connecting piece with threaded connection and there is at least one gripping element on the outer surface of the connecting piece for rotating the connecting piece or keeping it still upon making the threaded connection, characterized in that the gripping element comprises at least two straight portions such that two straight portions on opposite sides of the connecting piece are parallel, the straight portions forming gripping surfaces for a tool, and that there is a rounded portion between adjacent straight portions, whereby the gripping element is formed such that the tool round the gripping element slips before the thread of the connecting piece gets damaged.

6. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements, whereby a first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece, the connecting piece comprising a body mainly of thermoplast, at at least one end of the connecting piece a thread, whereby at least one element is connectable to the connecting piece with threaded connection and at least one gripping element on the outer surface of the connecting piece for rotating the connecting piece or keeping it still upon making the threaded connection, the gripping element comprising at least two straight portions such that two straight portions on opposite sides of the connecting piece are parallel, the straight portions forming gripping surfaces for a tool and a portion which is arranged

smooth between adjacent straight portions, whereby the gripping element is formed such that the tool round the gripping element slips before the thread of the connecting piece gets damaged according to claim 5, characterized in that the gripping element comprises six straight portions.

7. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 6 ~~claim 5~~, characterized in that wherein the gripping element comprises six straight portions is formed of ~~two or more ribs in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A connecting piece according to claim 6 ~~claim 2~~, characterized in that wherein the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.

9. (Currently Amended) A connecting piece according to claim 6 ~~claim 8~~, characterized in that wherein the portion which is arranged smooth is a rounded portion outer surface of the metal insert is provided with ribs in the direction of the periphery, the ribs of the metal insert and the ribs on the outer surface of the connecting piece being arranged at the same point.

10. (Canceled)